Air Service at Hubli airport

767. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flights from Hubli airport have been suspended for the last many months; and

(b) if so, by when the same are likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The services may be resumed after the High Tension line across the approach sector of the runway is removed by the State Government and the availability of aircraft with Vayudoot Limted is improved.

Import of crude oil from Iraq

768. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import crude oil from Iraq during the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, what are the details of this deal; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase the production of crude oil in the country to minimise its import in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) For the year 1990-91 Indian Oil Corporation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SOMO, National Oil Co. of Iraq for import of 2.25 million tonnes of crude oil.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase production of oil include:

—Prevention of decline in producing fields by expediting liquidation of sick wells, introduction of artificial lift schemes as and when required, and periodical stimulation of wells to increase their production.

—Timely completion of ongoing development programme i.e. drilling of development wells, and installation of surface production, processing and transportation facilities.

—Taking up of new development projects in order to obtain production from new fields.

Expansion of Barauni Refinery in Bihar

769. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take action for the expansion of Barauni Refinery in Bihar; and

(b) if so, from what sources, Government expect to get excess crude to meet the extended capacity of Barauni Refinery?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The project for augmentation of utilities/offsite facilities at a total cost of Rs. 19.5 crores to enable operation of Barauni refinery at 3.8 MTPA is still under consideration of the Government.

Electricity Bills by DESU

770. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is at present sending bills of electricity charges by post resulting in non-delivery, delay, extra burden on the mail as well as manifold problems to the consumers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that earlier these bills were sent by DESU through Messenger service; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to revert back to the earlier practice to solve the problems being faced by the consumers?

THE MNIISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) According to DESU, they were earlier sending the Electricity Bills to the consumers through messengers. The system of sending the bills by post has been introduced to reduce the complaints from the consumers about wrong delivery or delay in receiving the bills. Though the postal authorities have expressed some administrative difficulties in accepting the large number of Electricity Bills for delivery the problems is being sorted out by meeting the essential requirements of the postal authorities for delivering the Electricity Bills in the various Post Offices for clearence.

(c) With the stabilisation of the system of sending the Electricity Bills by post, the problems faced by the consumers are expected to be removed. Hence, there is no proposal for the present to revent to the earlier practice of sending the bills through the messengers.

OPD treatment at AIIMS

771. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has started restruction practice in its OPDs and refusing to see the hapless patients there;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard to give relief to the patients?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The AIIMS has reported that it runs 13 general OPDs and 56 Speciality Clinics and all the patients coming to these OPDs and Clinics are properly attended to. It was only for about a month (15th May to 15th June, 1990) that some restriction was imposed in the Medical OPD only due to shortage of consultants and Senior Residents in the Department of Medicine. Rest of the OPDs functioned normally. Even during the period in question, no deserving patient was refused treatment or consultation.

Spread of AIDS

772. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey in the red light area of Delhi and other State Capitals about the prostitures suffering from AIDS;

(b) if so, what are the details and the results thereof; and

(c) what preventive steps Government propose to take to stop the spread of AIDS through prostitutes and call girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) Yes, the AIIMS, New Delhi has conducted survey in the red light area of Delhi. Such surveys have also been conducted in Bombay, Madras and Vellore. According to information received from I.C.M.R., the studies indicate that between 25—30 per cent of all prostitutes screened in 1990 were found to be sero-positive.

(c) Government of India has drawn up a Medical Term Plan for prevention of AIDS. In the Medium Term Plan, it has been decided to strengthen the existing facilities for treatment of AIDS infected patients at ten identified Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country. The expansion of the facilities include:

—providing clinical care to patients with HIV infection.

—providing counselling to the patients and their spouces/relatives.

—providing continuous medical care at the out-patients.

—collecting data on clinical profile, immunological profile, opportunistic infections and other manifestations of HIV infection.

—providing training facilities to medical and para-medical personnel in the management of HIV patients.